

Easterwood buzzes on game weekends

By WILEY GILMORE
Battalion Reporter

A normal day at Texas A&M University's Easterwood Airport is a somewhat humdrum, pastoral affair.

A few student pilots practice landings. An occasional transient plane arrives, refuels and then departs. The commuter airline planes come and go.

Most of the time, there are more buzzards than flying machines in the air around Easterwood.

The routine changes, however, when the Aggie football team is playing at Kyle Field.

Like the first small gust of an approaching storm, the planes begin to arrive on Friday afternoon and the pace intensifies into the evening.

The influx resumes the next morning and reaches a peak about two hours before kickoff.

On a recent Friday afternoon Harry Raiser, the airport's manager, was patrolling the field in a white pickup, doing what he could to make the operation run smoothly. A portable radio, plugged into the cigarette lighter outlet, rested on the seat beside him.

"The Tech game is always large," Raiser said. "We get about 200 planes for Arkansas, and I expect right around 175 for this game." The Penn State game had drawn 125 planes.

Tech and Arkansas are just right for flying — too far to drive and just right to fly.

Raiser, 50, has been the manager of Easterwood since May 1980.

"To me, the football weekends are the greatest thing going," he said, driving the truck down a long line of private planes. "My wife claims it's the main thing that keeps me going. And it gives the (flight) linemen something to do besides pump gas."

On this weekend, gas and service and happy pilots were among Raiser's primary concerns.

"One thing most people don't know about this airport is that it is self-sufficient," Raiser explained that Easterwood Airport covers all of its operating cost through charges for gas, oil, building and hangar rentals and other fees.

These costs do not include the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) control tower and flight service station.

Because of the large number of airplanes arriving for the game, one of the airport's three 5,000-foot runways was closed to traffic and used as a temporary aircraft parking area. A new parking ramp, when completed, will provide 33 to 50 additional spaces, depending on the size of the planes.

Back in his pickup, Raiser called the control tower on the radio for permission to drive across the runway to the growing line of planes. While the University owns Easterwood's real estate, the FAA controls all movement on and above it.

"We'll be all the way down to the end of this runway tomorrow," he said, pointing



Photo by Wiley Gilmore

Harry Raiser, Easterwood Airport manager, assists a private pilot who has no radio in his craft. Easterwood Airport does a booming business during weekends of Texas A&M home football games, with private pilots arriving and departing before and after the game.

down the asphalt strip that extended for nearly a mile.

Raiser crisscrossed the airport several times, keeping the flow of planes into the parking area running smoothly. He delivered drinking water to his linemen and gave several pilots a lift to the other side of the field.

Near sundown, he took a break for something to eat before the evening's final surge of arriving planes.

By 10 a.m. Saturday, the improvised parking lot was nearly full, and the pace at Easterwood quickened, now faster than the day before.

"They're all over the place," Raiser said, waving toward the planes. At least a half dozen circling airplanes were visible from where he stood.

The radio in the truck carried a continuous flow of messages between planes and controllers.

A car drove onto the parking apron in front of the airline terminal and stopped beside a large jet airplane. Raiser drove to the plane and said goodbye to Bob Hope.

A hundred feet above the ground, Dale Peterson, the FAA control tower supervisor, stood in one corner of the big tinted-glass room, wearing a headset and a microphone. Peterson was not talking to the airplanes directly, but was monitoring a team of air and ground controllers who were talking non-stop.

Several men were directing airplanes on the ground. Others were talking to planes

several miles away. Holcomb and Glen Milton talked to the pilots who were about to take off or land.

They stood in the center of the tower so they could see in all directions. As they talked to the planes, they unconsciously gestured with their arms, as if the pilots in the air could see where they were pointing.

Peterson said he had added an extra man to the day's shift. The need was apparent. The men's face muscles were taut, eyes squinted, voices a half octave higher than normal.

Back in the truck, Harry Raiser finished supervising the parking and took a few hours' break before the postgame exodus.

"I've been to half a ballgame since I've been here," said Raiser, whose three children are all Aggies.

"I have an invitation to one game this year and intend to go if I can get enough people (to work here)," he said.

On Sunday, Raiser's records showed that 136 airplanes had used his parking facilities during the weekend. He estimated that between 150 and 160 game-related planes had used the airport, with many simply dropping passengers off and returning later to pick them up. Seventy planes stayed over Saturday night.

By Sunday afternoon, only a few planes were still parked on the closed runway.

A young coyote bounded through the tall grass nearby, looking for quick snack. And the buzzards once again owned the sky.

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The Weather

Yesterday

High 84
Low 71
Rain 0.02 inches

Today

High 88
Low 77
Humidity muggy
Chance of rain good

Clayton: 'sick' of Brilab spectacle

HOUSTON — House Speaker Bill Clayton took the stand in his federal trial to state he felt it proper to return \$5,000 to a labor leader only when he could explain to him "eyeball to eyeball" why he money was unacceptable, even if he had to wait months to do it.

Clayton in fact never had a chance to return the money, given to him in his office on Nov. 8, 1979, because three months later the FBI revealed its activities in the Brilab investigation.

The government charges that the circumstances of the three-month speaker's acceptance of the cash, the fact it was still locked in a desk drawer three months later and his failure to report it as the campaign contribution he claims it was all add up to a bribery conspiracy.

An angry Clayton Thursday described his intent during the meetings with south Texas labor leader L.C. Moore and FBI informant Joseph Hauser and also lashed out at the 33 day-old trial of the "whole legislative system," a spectacle he said made him sick to his stomach.

The west Texas Democrat said Moore and Hauser, posing as an agent for Prudential Insurance Co., got his attention by offering a plan they said would save \$1 million on the \$76 million state employees insurance contract.

"What I understand in this conversation was they were going to give me some proposal or some plan that would save the state \$1 million if I could get them some information that would show them how to open the bids," Clayton testified.

On that basis alone, he testified, he vowed he would "go to bat" for Prudential.

On tapes secretly made by Hauser, the convicted swindler was heard counting out \$5,000 which he handed to Moore to give to Clayton. The speaker testified he did not hear the money counted, never counted it himself, ordered an aide to lock it in a drawer until it could be returned and did not know the amount until the case was publicized in February.

"I made up my mind to tell L.C. we appreciate it and end it right there knowing I had no intention of accepting it," Clayton said.

Asked by defense lawyer Roy Minton if he ever considered keeping the money as a political contribution, Clayton replied: "Absolutely not."

"... I was going to give it back to L.C. at the most convenient time that I could when he came back by the office," Clayton testified. "It was an occasion where you couldn't send a guy the money back because of the situation or the circumstances that happened there in that office."

"I only thought it incumbent upon me to look the man eyeball to eyeball and explain to him why I couldn't take the money and that's exactly what I was going to do."

"... It had been three months but I don't think it would have made any difference if it had been four months or five months. I would have waited until that opportunity came up."

Clayton testified if Moore's "peers" in organized labor found out he had contributed to a well-known conservative, anti-union politician, "they wouldn't stand for it." Likewise, Clayton's traditional supporters would be upset if he accepted a labor-based contribution.

Clayton said he was glad to testify because it meant his trial was nearing conclusion, but he said the Brilab case left him very disturbed.

"We've sat here 33 days and the whole legislative system's been on trial and it's made me sick to my stomach," he testified. "I have met some of the finest human beings I've ever met in that Legislature and they have served this state and they have served with sacrifice. I had to say that ... that (bribery) ain't the way you do business in Texas."

Clayton testified he had "absolutely no earthly idea" what Moore and Hauser were talking about in subsequent references to what the contribution could mean to the labor leader or in terms of future contributions to Clayton.

Moore, he believed, was trying to force the money upon him because he was trying to "impress" Hauser, a man previous tapes showed promised Moore quick riches for helping Hauser sign lucrative group contracts.

Hostage report denied

Iranian prime minister to address U.N.

UNITED NATIONS — Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Rajai flew to New York today to address the U.N. Security Council on the Persian Gulf War, touching off speculation about a breakthrough in the 48-day hostage impasse.

President Carter and Secretary of State Edmund Muskie said Thursday they were willing to meet with Rajai, an Islamic hardliner, to discuss the fate of the 52 American hostages, held nearly a year.

Tehran and Washington denied reports a deal had already been negotiated, but diplomats saw Rajai's visit as an opportunity to seek a resolution of the hostage crisis, now in its 12th month.

Iranian sources told UPI Rajai may stay for "several days" although his schedule had not yet been fixed.

Although Carter announced he would be willing to meet with Rajai about the American hostages, he added, "I see no real

possibility of a meeting taking place."

Muskie said, "We indicated early on our willingness to discuss with representatives of the government of Iran this hostage question."

The secretary of state flatly denied reports a deal was in the works involving the sending of spare parts to Iran in exchange for release of the American hostages as reported by Chicago's WLS-TV.

"There is no such proposal," Muskie said. "There is no such deal. I will put it very definitively. No."

Diplomats generally agreed that — under the pressure of the war — Rajai's journey to New York signaled Iran's decision to step out of its past isolation.

Rajai, who flew in from London and will be joined at the United Nations by a 10-man delegation, was to present Iran's side in the Persian Gulf war to the Security Council today.

The 15-member council has launched two unanimous appeals to Iran and Iraq, to stop the fighting and settle their conflict peacefully. Iraq accepted. Iran said it will fight on until the last Iraqi soldier has left.

On the hostages, diplomatic sources at the United Nations said Rajai's delegation may at least sound out through Third World nations any options that might lead to negotiations with the United States. If it does, the sources said, Iran could be expected to drive a hard bargain.

Before he left Tehran, Rajai said he was only going to explain "our innocence and the oppression by America and Iraq," Tehran Radio reported.

"We shall accept a resolution in which Iraq's aggression is clearly condemned and (Iraqi President Saddam) Hussein's trial is also included," Rajai was quoted as saying. "We shall not accept any conditions."



Photo by George Dolan

Obscured
This Aston Hall dorm sign was covered by dirt excavated from the other side of the wall. Trenches were dug for water lines for the women's dorm being built east of the Quad.

GNP will be released today; economy inching its way up

WASHINGTON — A batch of government reports indicate the economy is inching its way out of the recession, a journey that probably began late this summer.

Today, the government releases its definitive statement on the U.S. economy — the report on the gross national product in the third quarter.

Today's GNP report will measure the value of goods and services produced in the country during July, August and September, with adjustments for inflation.

Most economists expected the gross national product in the period to register either no movement or a slight increase.

Either result would be a marked improvement from the 9.6 percent decline registered in the second quarter — the steepest decline in American corporate history — and mark an end to the recent recession.

Only a few months ago, most analysts predicted the GNP would drop between 4 and 5 percent in the third quarter, but confusion over erratic interest rates and the lifting of the Federal Reserve's credit controls in July caused most to revise their forecasts.

Kathryn Eickhoff, executive vice president of Townsend Greenspan, a New York forecasting firm, said Thursday the third-quarter GNP definitely would show an improvement over the previous quarter because of the removal of credit controls, but the question is whether the recovery is sustainable.

"There are no strong signs of persistent recovery," Eickhoff said.

Michael Evans of Evans Economics in Washington was more optimistic than most analysts, forecasting a 1.5 percent to 2 percent increase in the third quarter GNP.

"I expect a substantial, positive increase," Evans said Thursday, noting American consumers are "returning to normalcy" in their spending habits following the lifting of the credit controls.

American individuals and business got some good news Thursday with reports showing personal income and industrial production both turned upward in September.

Personal income rose 0.9 percent. And, for the first time since spring, Americans last month spent money at a slower rate than they earned it, the Commerce Department reported.

The Federal Reserve Board issued a new report showing a 1 percent improvement in industrial production last month — the second consecutive increase after six months of declines.

The Commerce department said Americans increased their consumer spending by only \$10.9 billion or 0.7 percent in September — compared with \$18.7 billion, or 1.1 percent, in August.

The September figures also indicate people may be spending more cautiously and saving more, since there also was a 6.3 percent increase in the personal savings rate, to \$84.1 billion.

Production of big consumer items such as cars and major appliances led the surge in industrial output, rising 3.2 percent in September — the largest monthly increase since May 1979.

Production of construction supplies rose a full 2 percent in September, following a 1.8 percent rise in August. But it still was almost 16 percent below last year's level.

Prairie View called unequal Rep. wants funds for blacks

AUSTIN — Rep. Wilhelmina Delco, D-Austin, threatened Thursday to file suit in federal court if necessary to stop what she called the "hand-me-down" treatment of the state's historically black colleges and universities.

In particular, she said, she wants Prairie View A&M to share in the Permanent University Fund, the state's wealthy endowment shared now only by the University of Texas and Texas A&M University.

Delco said she has tried repeatedly to get Attorney General Mark White to issue opinions on a series of questions involving the exclusion of Prairie View from the fund and the treatment of other predominantly black institutions.

"The truth of the matter is that he has chosen not to answer at all," she said. "Mark White is in a very difficult political position. The Texas A&M regents are adamantly opposed to making Prairie View a full and equal partner in the fund for purposes of maintenance and support."

The fund is now shared by the University of Texas, which receives a two-thirds share, and Texas A&M, which receives one-third.

Delco said A&M will no doubt expect to be defended by the

attorney general in any conflict between the interests of A&M and Prairie View.

White said after Delco's news conference that he had tried to reach her recently and she had been out of town.

"We will continue to keep her advised as we have in the past," White said.

Delco, chairman of the House Committee on Higher Education, said she will introduce a bill in the next session of the Legislature to guarantee Prairie View a share of the Permanent University Fund.

"We are talking about a whole lot of money," she said. "The oil leases that were sold the other day, just the oil leases, brought \$44 million."

"Prairie View gets the hand-me-downs. When the Prairie View stadium was falling down around them, and A&M needed a new stadium, they dismantled the old stadium at A&M and reassembled it at Prairie View."

She said she has had every hope that the problems could be resolved within the state but, "I am not going to procrastinate any longer."

Delco said she has talked to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, which is about to issue a report on desegregation of institutions of higher education in Texas.